

The loss of T-Mobile in the marketplace can only result in one thing: bad news for the consumer. The return of Ma Bell should be blocked by any means necessary.

The acquisition will effectively force every single T-Mobile company into the arms of Ma Bell and her unquestionably expensive plans. AT&T has made it clear that it plans to dismantle T-Mobile's 3G and 4G networks (running off of their AWS 1700 and 2100 frequencies). This will effectively make every smartphone currently on T-Mobiles network useless, as they will be stuck on 2G data plans (while paying, on-contract for 4G data speeds). So yes, we T-Mobile customers can "keep our phones" and "stay on our plans" -- but as Mr. Stephenson doesn't like to point out: our phones and plans will be useless. Our only other option will be to lose our T-Mobile rates and sign up for AT&T service.

I find this to be a nice conundrum, as AT&T's own CEO - Mr. Stephenson - claimed before a senate hearing that AT&T can't simply "just shut off a wireless technology, leaving millions of customers without service", in regards to repurposing their own 2G spectrum for their 4G LTE deployment. Yet, that is exactly what they will be doing to T-Mobile customers.

Furthermore, Mr. Stephenson argues that AT&T "needs" T-Mobile for their spectrum. This is untrue, however, as AT&T has a war chest of bandwidth that it has yet to even try to deploy. Their close competitor, Verizon Wireless, recently deployed their own 4G LTE network to great reception, with less bandwidth than AT&T, using the same frequencies that AT&T holds more of. How is it that Verizon can apparently do the impossible, but AT&T cannot? The fact of the matter is: AT&T has lied to the American public so that they might become the only GSM operator in America.

Despite the song and dance routine of telling regulators what they want to hear (lying), T-Mobile and AT&T are nationwide competitors. Losing a nationwide player in the mobile space is extremely dangerous, and I can guarantee we will see reduced competition and higher prices.

As of today, T-Mobile is the only nationwide telecom that competes on price. Both Verizon and AT&T compete with exclusive handsets, but are both outrageously expensive, with poor customizer service. In dealing with both companies, I have been hung up on when requesting information regarding my bills. Allowing these companies to grow larger will not improve their customer service, nor will it lower their prices.

The anti-competitive nature of the telecom industry in America is already sickening. With Verizon and Sprint's CDMA networks, one cannot take their device to the competitor's network, because it must be authorized by the carrier to function on the network. There are no technical hurdles here: the CDMA devices all operate on the exact same frequencies and are - in reality - interchangeable. However, due to marketplace collusion, the two companies refuse to authorize devices from their competitors, forcing customers to purchase new phones. That is to say: if you owned the best phone

on Verizon, and decided to go to Sprint, you would not be able to use the same phone and would be forced to pay an Early Termination Fee (\$350 minimum) + the cost of a new phone (\$200+ minimum). With GSM on T-Mobile and AT&T, a consumer may simply swap SIM cards into a compatible phone if they so choose. In these tough economic times, people cannot afford such costs, and will likely default on their credit. Think about that: you're going to let AT&T force millions of customers into expensive contracts in the financial times that we're seeing today. Do you really believe that to be a good thing? Many people - myself included - will simply opt out of wireless due to the high cost of entry. This will stifle growth in the technology sector.

More carriers - especially a carrier as unique as T-Mobile - means more choice. I choose T-Mobile because they have stellar customer service and because they will actually compete on price. Such a choice is what defines America, and losing that choice will ring in more negativity of "business as usual" in Washington when it comes to corporations and Big Business. Allowing Ma Bell to reform, and allowing AT&T and Verizon to completely control the marketplace will be the biggest mistake this country makes in the next 100 years. Wireless is the future of our economy, and here, we have Ma Bell trying to creep back in. Can you not see it?

Please, if you value a truly free market, block the reformation of Ma Bell and the duopoly of collusion that will surely follow.

-A Concerned Citizen